

JEFFERSON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
WORK SESSION
APRIL 4, 2016
7:00 P.M.

The purpose of the meeting was to prepare the agenda for the April meeting. It was held at the Jefferson County Commissioners Office.

Those present were as follows: Mitchell McGraw, Chairman; Gonice C. Davis, Member; Tommy New, Member; Johnny Davis, Member; Wayne Davis, Member; Adam Mestres, County Administrator; Dalton Dowdy, County Attorney; and Bonnie Wells, County Clerk.

Chairman McGraw called meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Commissioner Johnny Davis gave the invocation.

Commissioner Wayne Davis made a motion to amend the agenda by adding Ogeechee Training Center Exercise as *item f* to New Business. Commissioner New second the motion.

Commissioner Wayne Davis made a motion to adopt the agenda. Commissioner Johnny Davis seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously passed.

OLD BUSINESS

Bank Building Plaque

Commissioner New made a motion to officially name the building housing the Tax Commissioner's office and the Tax Assessor's office the "Bank Building" which would include a plaque depicting the name. Commissioner Johnny Davis seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously passed.

NEW BUSINESS

Property Tax Refund Request - Parcel A001 001

Tax Commissioner, Nancy McGraw, received the following request from Pleasant Grove Baptist Church regarding the taxes on property recently purchased. As shown in the letter below, the church requested an abatement of the taxes. Mrs. McGraw recommended granting the church's request and alleviate the taxes.

PLEASANT GROVE BAPTIST CHURCH
1350 CHURCH STREET
AVERA, GA 30803

March 22, 2016

Dear Jefferson County Tax Commissioner:

Re: map and parcel A001 001

The Pleasant Grove Baptist Church in Avera, Georgia purchased 15 acres of land in April of 2015 from Marsha Searcy Et Al. The church has been billed for the 2015 taxes due and we are tax exempt. We ask that you please release us from property tax.

Sincerely,


Bobbie Williams
Secretary and Treasury

Commissioner Wayne Davis made a motion to allow the tax commissioner's office to relieve Pleasant Grove Baptist Church of the responsibility of the 2015 ad valorem tax bill in the amount of \$516.98. Commissioner New seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously passed.

Land Lease Agreement on US HWY 221 for Green Box Site

The board discussed the property listed below as a potential site for green boxes on HWY 221. The current site is at Ozier Russell Road.

The board discussed moving the site from Ozier Russell Road to the property owned by Mark Lyman on US HWY 221 and entering into a commercial land lease agreement with Mr. Lyman. The lease would run for the period of April 1, 2016 through March 31, 2021 for the amount of \$500 per year for use of the property. Commissioner Wayne Davis made a motion to enter into a commercial land lease agreement with Mark Lyman for the use of his property on US HWY 221 as a site for green boxes. Commissioner Johnny Davis seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously passed.

The county administrator presented the following resolution from ACCG to update the previous workers' comp resolution on file for volunteer fire fighters and elected officials.

BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Commissioners of Jefferson County, Georgia and it is hereby resolved by the authority of same:

Section II:
All resolutions or parts of Resolutions in conflict herewith are repealed.

Jefferson County Board of Commissioners

BY: _____
Chairman

Attest:

County Administrator or Clerk

GDOT Inmate Labor Agreement

The county administrator presented to the board the annual GDOT Inmate Labor Agreement for a state inmate detail which allows a county correctional officer to take out approximately twelve inmates to perform work for Jefferson and four more counties. Commissioner Johnny Davis made a motion to approve the GDOT Inmate Labor Agreement. Commissioner New seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously passed.

Commissioner New expressed a need for “No Thru Traffic” signs on Bermuda Drive in Louisville. Commissioner New made a motion to approve the purchase and placing of “No Thru Traffic” signage on Bermuda Drive. Commissioner Johnny Davis seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously passed.

Tax Commissioner, Nancy McGraw, requested the use of the Multipurpose Center (Old Armory) to have a prom for the members of the Ogeechee Training Center. She also requested the board waive the rental fee for the building. The date of the prom will be April 22, 2016 from 10:00 a.m. until 12:00 p.m. Commissioner New made a motion to waive the rental fee and allow the training center the use of the building. Commissioner Gonice Davis seconded the motion. The vote passed unanimously.

Commissioner Johnny Davis shared information on the recent Georgia Water Conservation Tour he participated in.

Scheduled Public Comments

Quinton Farrer requested to be placed on the agenda to discuss fishing on bridges and right of way within the county.

Public Comments on Agenda Items

No comments on agenda items.

Adjournment

Commissioner Johnny Davis made a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Gonice Davis seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously passed.

Attest:

County Clerk

Mitchell McGraw, Chairman

Gonice C. Davis, Vice Chairman

H. G. Thomas New, Member

Johnny A. Davis, Member

Charles Wayne Davis, Member

JEFFERSON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
REGULAR MEETING
APRIL 12, 2016
7:00 P.M.

This was the regular scheduled meeting for the month of April. It was held at the Jefferson County Commissioners’ office.

Those present were as follows: Mitchell McGraw, Chairman; Gonice C. Davis, Member; Tommy New, Member; Johnny Davis, Member; Wayne Davis, Member; Adam Mestres, County Administrator; Dalton Dowdy, County Attorney; and Bonnie Wells, County Clerk.

Chairman McGraw called the meeting to order and Commissioner Wayne Davis gave the invocation.

Commissioner Johnny Davis made a motion to amend the agenda by adding Bridges as *item e* under New Business. Commissioner Wayne Davis seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously passed.

Commissioner Wayne Davis made a motion to adopt the agenda. Commissioner Johnny Davis seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously passed.

Commissioner Johnny Davis made a motion to adopt the minutes. Commissioner Gonice Davis seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously passed.

Chairman McGraw gave the chairman’s report; County Administrator, Adam Mestres, gave the county administrator’s report; EMS Director, Carl Wagster, gave the EMS report; and Building Inspector/Code Enforcement Officer, Jimmy Kitchens, gave the Building Department/Code Enforcement report. Emergency Services Director, Jim Anderson, was absent.

Consent Agenda

- + Motion to approve Property Tax Abatement
- + Motion to approve Land Lease Agreement for Green Box Site
- + Motion to approve ACCG Workers Compensation Resolution
- + Motion to approve GDOT Inmate Labor Agreement
- + Motion to approve “No Thru Traffic” signage for Bermuda Drive
- + Motion to approve waiving the rental fee at the Multipurpose Center (Old Armory) for Ogeechee Training Center Prom

Commissioner Wayne Davis made a motion to adopt the Consent Agenda items. Commissioner Gonice Davis seconded the motion. Discussion: *Commissioner New informed the board, he spoke with the Ogeechee Country Club president and letters will be sent out to members informing them of the new signage and the request to use Country Club Drive, if they are going to the country club and not Bermuda Drive. The chairman also shared the Ogeechee Training Center prom will be held Friday, April 22, 2016 at 10:00 a.m.; and he wanted the board to attend.* The vote was unanimously passed.

OLD BUSINESS

Third Reading & Adoption of Land Use & Development Ordinance

County Administrator, Adam Mestres, reviewed the Land Use & Development Ordinance during the third & final reading of the aforementioned ordinance. Commissioner Wayne Davis made a motion the third reading and adoption of the Land Use Ordinance be approved. Commissioner Johnny Davis seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously passed.

NEW BUSINESS

Landfill Hours of Operation


County Administrator, Adam Mestres, presented to the board the need for the county landfill to be opened Monday through Friday. After much discussion, Commissioner Wayne Davis made a motion to allow the county administrator and the public works director to work out the hours of operation for the landfill utilizing man power to the best of their ability. Commissioner Johnny Davis seconded the motion. The vote was passed unanimously.

Update on Cameras at Green Box Sites

Chairman McGraw stated cameras had been purchased for green box sites but after the cameras were delivered, they discovered the cameras were not the right fit for what the board needed. They need cameras that are compatible with Verizon or AT & T and these cameras were not. They are looking at cameras now that are \$500 each and will work with Verizon. Only a few will be ordered to see how they work, if they work okay, more will be purchased. The county administrator told the board he will keep them informed on how it is progressing.

LifeLink Proclamation

The county administrator presented the following LifeLink Proclamation for adoption by the board. This proclamation, proclaims April as organ donation month.



National Donate Life Month Proclamation

Jefferson County PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS, one of the most meaningful gifts that a human being can bestow upon another is the Gift of Life; and

WHEREAS, more than 121,000 men, women, and children await life-saving or life-enhancing organ transplants, of which over 5,590 reside in Georgia; and

WHEREAS, the need for organ, eye, and tissue donation grows daily as a new patient is added to the national waiting list for an organ transplant every 10 minutes; and

WHEREAS, the critical donor shortage remains a public health crisis as an average of 22 people die daily due to the lack of available organs; and

WHEREAS, organ, eye, and tissue donation can provide families the comfort of knowing the gift of donated organs and tissue endows another person with renewed hope for a healthy life; and

WHEREAS, donating life through organ, eye, and tissue donation is the ultimate act of generosity and kindness we Jefferson County citizens can perform; and

WHEREAS, more than 4.7 million Georgians have already registered their decision to give the Gift of Life at www.donatelifegeorgia.org or when getting or renewing their driver license or state identification card at a driver license office; and

WHEREAS, LifeLink® of Georgia is the non-profit, community service organization dedicated to the recovery of high quality organs and tissues for transplantation therapy; and


WHEREAS, Jefferson County supports the life-saving mission of LifeLink® of Georgia; and

NOW, THEREFORE, I, _____, in Jefferson County, do hereby proclaim April 2016 as

DONATE LIFE MONTH

In Jefferson County to honor all those who made the decision to give the gift of life, to focus attention on the extreme need for organ, eye and tissue donation, to encourage all residents to take action and sign up on Georgia's Donor Registry at www.donatelifegeorgia.org, to discuss the miracle of transplantation as a family, and to make a family commitment to organ, eye, and tissue donation

On This day, ____ of April 2016



A Donor Life Organization

Commissioner Johnny Davis made a motion to adopt the LifeLink Proclamation. Commissioner Gonice Davis seconded the proclamation. The vote was unanimously passed.

Cancellation of May Work Session

County Administrator, Adam Mestres, shared with the board, there will be a Meet the Candidates Forum held at Jefferson County High School on May 2, 2016 at 6:30 and it will conflict with the work session. Also the commissioners will be returning, on the aforementioned day from the ACCG's Annual Conference. Commissioner Johnny Davis made a motion to cancel the May Work Session. Commissioner Gonice Davis seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously passed.

Bridges

The board discussed, at length, the following ordinance, "Fishing from County Rights of Way", at length.

ARTICLE II. - FISHING FROM COUNTY RIGHTS-OF-WAY

Sec. 28-21. - Prohibited where signs are posted.

Fishing from a public roadway where signs have been posted prohibiting such activity shall be a violation of this article.

(Code 1996, § 50-27; Ord. of 11-8-1988, § 2; Ord. of 9-8-1998(02), § 1)

Sec. 28-22. - Authority to post signs at designated locations.

- (a) The superintendent of roads of the county shall at the direction of the board of commissioners erect and place into service signs prohibiting fishing activity from public roadways at such locations as deemed necessary by the board of commissioners.
- (b) This article shall not be enforced on any county right-of-way, or at any location on any county right-of-way, unless the county has first placed a sign within 300 feet, of a size not less than 225 square inches, notifying the public that it is prohibited from fishing from the rights-of-way of county-maintained roads.

(Code 1996, § 50-28; Ord. of 11-8-1988, § 3; Ord. of 9-8-1998(02), § 2)

Sec. 28-23. - Enforcement; issuance of citations.

- (a) This article may be enforced by the county sheriff's department and any of its lawful deputies or by any other qualified law enforcement official in uniform and on duty at the time the violation is observed and the citation is issued.
- (b) The sheriff and his lawful deputies are hereby authorized and empowered to issue citations to any persons in violation of this article.

(Code 1996, § 50-29; Ord. of 11-8-1988, § 4; Ord. of 9-8-1998(02), § 3(A))

Sec. 28-24. - Penalty.

Any person who violates this article shall, upon conviction, be punished as provided in section 1-15.

(Code 1996, § 50-30; Ord. of 11-8-1988, § 5)

Sec. 28-25. - Court jurisdiction.

The county state court shall have jurisdiction over this article and all citations and warrants taken pursuant to this article shall be prosecuted by the solicitor general of the county state court.

(Code 1996, § 50-31; Ord. of 11-8-1988, § 6; Ord. of 9-8-1998(02), § 3(C))

Secs. 28-26—28-30. - Reserved.

After much discussion, Commissioner Wayne Davis made a motion to modify the current ordinance to reflect "no fishing from bridges" and post signage indicating "any fishing from bridges is strictly prohibited and will be enforced" by tickets being written via Magistrate Court. Commissioner Johnny Davis seconded the motion. The motion passed with a vote of three to two. Commissioners Gonice Davis, Johnny Davis, and Wayne Davis voted yes. Chairman McGraw and Commissioner New voted no.

Scheduled Public Comments

Mr. Charles Macdonald spoke regarding issues with property owner adjacent to his property on Farm Lane Road.

Public Comments on Agenda Items

Marion Miller asked questions regarding the non-agenda item, Louisville not having a dry cleaners. Shavonda Mitchell made comments regarding "Children at Play" signage in the Rufus Wren Subdivision.

Commissioner New made a motion to go into Executive Session to discuss litigation and personnel. Commissioner Johnny Davis seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously approved.

No action taken.

Commissioner Wayne Davis made a motion to go back into the Regular Meeting. Commissioner Johnny Davis seconded the motion.

Adjournment

Commissioner Johnny Davis made a motion to adjourn the Regular Meeting. Commissioner New seconded the motion. The vote was passed unanimously.

Attest:

County Clerk

Mitchell McGraw, Chairman

Gonice C. Davis, Vice Chairman

H. G. Thomas New, Member

Johnny A. Davis, Member

Charles Wayne Davis, Member

JEFFERSON COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
SPECIAL CALL MEETING
APRIL 28 2016
9:00 A.M.

This was a Special Call Meeting to discuss Road Resurfacing Amendment. It was held at the Jefferson County Commissioners’ office.

Those present were as follows: Mitchell McGraw, Chairman; Gonice C. Davis, Member; Tommy New, Member; Wayne Davis, Member; Adam Mestres, County Administrator; Dalton Dowdy, County Attorney; and Bonnie Wells, County Clerk. Commissioner Johnny Davis was absent.

Chairman McGraw called the meeting to order and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Commissioner Gonice Davis gave the invocation.

Commissioner Wayne Davis made a motion to adopt the agenda. Commissioner Gonice Davis seconded the motion. The vote was unanimously passed.

NEW BUSINESS

Road Resurfacing Amendment

County Administrator, Adam Mestres, presented information on an amendment to the road resurfacing contract. The two roads in the south end of the county on the list was Spann Road and Nails Creek Road; however a landowner on Nails Creek Road did not want the road paved, which is why the contract had to be amended. Epps Brothers Paving will issue an addendum to the current contract substituting E. A. Goodson Road for Nails Creek Road.

Commissioner Gonice Davis made a motion to approve the addendum to the original contract by eliminating Nails Creek Road; adding E. A. Goodson Road; and Scruggs Road at no additional cost. Also authorize the chairman to sign any necessary documents after it is reviewed by the attorney. Commissioner New seconded the motion. The vote passed unanimously.

Attest:

County Clerk

Mitchell McGraw, Chairman

Gonice C. Davis, Vice Chairman

H. G. Thomas New, Member

Charles Wayne Davis, Member
